

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

LAURA BARBU, individually and on behalf
of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

PACIFIC MARKET INTERNATIONAL,
LLC, a corporation,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. 2:24-cv-00258

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiff Laura Barbu, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, by
and through her undersigned attorneys, brings this Class Action Complaint against Defendant
Pacific Market International, LLC (“Defendant,” “PMI” or “the Company”) for deceptive and
unfair business practices and unlawful actions in connection with the design, manufacture,
advertising, and sale of its wildly popular -- but defective -- Stanley cups in the United States
 (“Stanley cup” or “Stanley cups”), including this District. For years, the Company created the
false impression that its Stanley cups were THE quintessential accessories to achieve a healthy
lifestyle. It was not until January of 2024 that the Company was forced to publicly admit that its
Stanley cups contain lead – one of the most harmful heavy metals. Plaintiff seeks both injunctive
and monetary relief on behalf of the proposed Classes (defined below). Plaintiff alleges the
following based upon personal knowledge as well as investigation by her counsel and, as to all
other matters, upon information and belief. Plaintiff believes that a reasonable opportunity for
discovery will reveal substantial evidentiary support for the allegations set forth herein.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This Court has original jurisdiction over all causes of action asserted herein under
the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. §1332(d)(2), because the matter in controversy exceeds

\$5,000,000 exclusive of interest and costs and more than two-thirds of the Class members reside in states other than the states in which Defendant is a citizen and in which this case is filed, and therefore any exemptions to jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1332(d) do not apply.

3. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391, because Plaintiff has suffered injury as a result of Defendant's acts in this district, many of the acts and transactions giving rise to this action occurred in this District, Defendant conducts substantial business in this district, Defendant has intentionally availed itself of the laws and markets of this district, and Defendant is subject to personal jurisdiction in this district.

PARTIES

4. Plaintiff Laura Barbu is a resident of Suffolk County, New York. Plaintiff Barbu purchased three (3) Stanley 40 oz. Stainless Steel Adventure Quencher Tumbler cups for personal use and not for resale from www.target.com (one cup per transaction) between March and May of 2022, each of which she picked up in person at Target in Commack, New York. Based on Defendant's material omissions, Plaintiff Barbu was unaware that the Stanley cups contained any lead and would not have purchased them or would not have paid as much for them if that information were fully disclosed. Plaintiff was injured by paying a substantial premium for the Stanley cups whose value was less than what Plaintiff Barbu paid for them based on the presence of the lead.

5. As the result of Defendant's negligent and/or knowingly deceptive conduct as alleged herein, Plaintiff was injured when she paid the purchase price or a price premium for the Stanley cups. Plaintiff would not have paid this money had she known that the Stanley cups contained any level of lead.

6. Defendant PMI is a Washington limited liability company with its principal place of business located at 2401 Elliott Avenue Fl. 4, Seattle, Washington 98121. Defendant manufactures, distributes, markets, advertises, and sells the Stanley cup throughout the United States, including in this District, during the relevant period herein (defined below), both directly to consumers and through intermediaries.

1

2 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

3 **A. The Dangers of Lead**

4 7. Lead is a carcinogen and developmental toxin. It is dangerous in even trace
5 amounts.

6 8. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) and World Health Organization
7 (“WHO”) have declared lead “dangerous to human health.”¹

8 9. Lead is poisonous and “disturbs the functions of almost every organ in the human body[.]”²

9 10. “No amount of lead is known to be safe,” and its effects cannot be reversed or remediated.
10 The FDA, CDC, EPA, American Academy of Pediatrics (“AAP”), and WHO have all plainly
11 stated that there is no safe level of lead.³

12

13

14

15

16 ¹ *Staff Report: Baby Foods are Tainted with Dangerous Levels of Arsenic, Lead, Cadmium, and Mercury*, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, Feb. 4, 2021 (hereinafter “House Report”) at 2, available at <http://tinyurl.com/ytxswcar> (last accessed Feb. 22, 2024).

17 ² M Samuel Collin, et al, *Bioaccumulation of lead (Pb) and its effects on human: A review*, Journal
18 of Hazardous Materials Advances (Aug. 2022).

19 ³ FDA, *Lead in Food and Foodwares*, available at <https://www.fda.gov/food/environmental-contaminants-food/lead-food-and-foodwares> (last accessed Feb. 22, 2024); CDC, *Health Effects of Lead Exposure*, available at <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention/health-effects.htm#:~:text=Exposure%20to%20lead%20can%20seriously,Learning%20and%20behavior%20problems> (last accessed Feb. 22, 2024); Biden-Harris Administration Proposes to Strengthen Lead Paint Standards to Protect Against Childhood Lead Exposure, EPA, July 12, 2023, available at <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-proposes-strengthen-lead-paint-standards-protect-against> (last accessed Feb. 22, 2024); AAP, Lead Exposure in Children, available at <https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/lead-exposure/lead-exposure-in-children> (last accessed Feb. 22, 2024); WHO, Lead Poisoning, (hereinafter “WHO, Lead Poisoning”) available at <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/lead-poisoning-and-health>; see also USA Today, *FDA: Recalled Applesauce Pouches Had Elevated Lead Levels and Another Possible Contaminant* (Jan. 5, 2024), at

20 <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/food/2024/01/05/applesauce-pouch-recall-contamination-spreads/72121869007/> (last accessed Feb. 22, 2024).

1 11. "No safe level of exposure has been identified."⁴ No amount of lead is known to
 2 be safe because "there is no known safe blood lead concentration."⁵ Even exposure to very low
 3 levels of lead can "cause lower academic achievement, attention deficits and behavior problems,"⁶
 4 and, when exposure is consistent, has been "found to reduce the cognitive capacity of children."⁷
 5 "[P]rolonged intake of even [] low level[s] of lead is hazardous to human beings."⁸ Lead has been
 6 conclusively found to have no positive physiological role in the body, "while its harmful effects
 7 are manifold."⁹ The effects of lead have also been well studied at the cellular level, and "heavy
 8 metals, including lead, create reactive radicals which damage cell structures, including DNA and
 9 cell membrane."¹⁰

10 12. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned "[w]hen lead is used in
 11 manufacturing, there is a risk of lead exposure for consumers of those products, especially for
 12 products intended for use in food consumption, like drinkware."¹¹

13 13. According to Jenna Forsyth, Ph.D., a research scientist specializing in
 14 epidemiology and environmental science at Stanford University School of Medicine, "[m]ost
 15 people think of lead poisoning as a thing of the past, but lead is still all around us, often at
 16 dangerous enough levels to cause significant harm[.]"¹²

17
 18
 19 ⁴ Healthy Babies Investigation Report,
 20 https://www.healthybabystudy.org/sites/healthybabystudy.org/files/2020-04/BabyFoodReport_ENGLISH_R6.pdf (last accessed Feb. 22, 2024) at 18; *see also* House
 21 Report, *supra* n.1 at 11.

22 ⁵ WHO, Lead Poisoning, *supra* n.3.

23 ⁶ Healthy Babies Investigation Report, *supra* n.4 at 18; *see also* House Report, *supra* n.1 at 11.

24 ⁷ Needleman HL, et al., *The long-term effects of exposure to low doses of lead in childhood--An 11-year follow-up report*, N Engl. J Med. 1990; 322:83–88.

25 ⁸ Wani AL, et al., *Lead toxicity: a review*, Interdiscip. Toxicol. Vol. 8, No. 2, pp. 55-64 (June 2015) (hereinafter "*Lead toxicity: a review*").

26 ⁹ *Id.*

27 ¹⁰ Kosnett MJ. Lead. In: Olson K.R, ed. Poisoning and Drug Overdose. 5th ed. McGraw Hill Professional (2006).

28 ¹¹ Daryl Austin, *Do Stanley cups contain lead or pose a risk of lead poisoning? Experts weigh in*, USA Today (Jan. 24, 2024).

¹² *Id.*

1 14. Lead has a half-life of roughly 30 days in the blood, “after which it diffuses into
 2 soft tissues such as the kidneys, brain, and liver and is then distributed to bones, teeth and hair as
 3 lead phosphate.”¹³

4 15. Prolonged exposure to lead accumulates in the body, leading to lead poisoning or
 5 toxicity.¹⁴

6 16. Lead from foods builds up in the body over time. Lead build-up can and has been
 7 scientifically demonstrated to lead to the development of chronic poisoning, cancer, developmental
 8 and reproductive disorders, as well as serious injuries to the nervous system and other organs and
 9 body systems.

10 17. Lead accumulation is a major health concern. The consumption of lead
 11 contaminated food and water are *direct* sources of accumulation.

12 18. Lead exposure in children is particularly dangerous. Even very low exposure levels
 13 to lead can “cause lower academic achievement, attention deficits and behavior problems” and in
 14 fact, “[n]o safe level of exposure has been identified.”¹⁵

15 19. Once lead exposure ceases, the amount of lead in the blood decreases gradually.
 16 However, lead is also stored in the bones and it “can take decades for lead stored in the bones to
 17 decrease.”¹⁶

18 20. Lead exposure in adults can cause neuropathy, a nerve condition that can lead to
 19 pain, numbness, weakness or tingling in one or more parts of the body. Other effects include
 20 reduced sperm count and hypertension and, depending on the blood lead level, decreased renal
 21 function, increased blood pressure, and hypertension.¹⁷

22
 23
 24 ¹³ M Samuel Collin, et al, *Bioaccumulation of lead (Pb) and its effects on human: A review*, Journal
 25 of Hazardous Materials Advances (Aug. 2022)

26 ¹⁴ *Id.*

27 ¹⁵ Healthy Babies Investigation Report, *supra* n.4.

28 ¹⁶ Health Effects of Lead Exposure, <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention/health-effects.html>
 (last accessed Feb. 22, 2024).

¹⁷ What Are Possible Health Effects from Lead Exposure? (May 24, 2023),
https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/csem/leadtoxicity/physiological_effects.html (last accessed Feb. 22, 2024).

1 21. Jane Houlihan, a research director for Healthy Babies, Bright Futures, an alliance
 2 whose mission is to reduce babies' exposures to neurotoxic chemicals, opined that "lead is so toxic
 3 you just can't take chances with it[.] If a company has to rely on their product remaining perfectly
 4 intact in order for it to be safe, that company has a basic material safety problem that they are
 5 passing on to their customers."¹⁸

6 22. Lead is an "all-systems toxin" meaning "[t]here isn't a system in your body — from
 7 your nervous system to your immune system to your reproductive system — that isn't harmed by
 8 it."¹⁹

9 23. According to the World Health Organization, "[t]here is no level of exposure to
 10 lead that is known to be without harmful effects."²⁰

11 **B. Defendant PMI's Stanley Cups and The Company's Admission of Lead**

12 24. For years, PMI has created the false impression that its Stanley cups are healthy
 13 accessories to aid active lifestyles: they are large enough to keep up with busy days; have handles
 14 to carry them wherever you go; are represented to be dishwasher safe; fit into car cupholders; are
 15 vacuum insulated to keep ice cold for more than twelve hours, and contain straws.

16 25. The Company's extremely popular Quencher H2.0 Flowstate Tumblers are
 17 marketed as "Your trusted companion whether you're hitting the road or your morning spin
 18 class."²¹

19 26. PMI markets its products as dishwasher safe, practical, "made with BPA-free 90%
 20 recycled 18/8 stainless steel," and "manufactured to last a lifetime."²² According to the California
 21 Department of Public Health, "[i]f a dish contains lead, using the dishwasher can damage the

22¹⁸ Madeline Holcombe and Sandee LaMotte, *Stanley and other drink cups contain lead. Should you be worried?*, CNN (Jan. 26, 2024).

24¹⁹ Daryl Austin, *Do Stanley cups contain lead or pose a risk of lead poisoning? Experts weigh in*, USA Today (Jan. 24, 2024).

25²⁰ Lead Poisoning (Aug. 11, 2023), <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/lead-poisoning-and-health> (last accessed Feb. 22, 2024).

26²¹ The Quencher H2.O Flowstate Tumbler, https://www.stanley1913.com/products/adventure-quencher-travel-tumbler-40-oz?_pos=2&_sid=2d76b9390&_ss=r?variant=44559880978559 (last accessed Feb. 22, 2024).

28²² Sustainability at Stanley, <https://www.stanley1913.com/pages/sustainability> (last accessed Feb. 22, 2024).

1 glazed surface. This can make is more likely to leach into food the next time it is used. In addition,
 2 in some cases, lead may contaminate other dishes in the dishwasher...and the lead-leaching
 3 process can still take place if the surface is not broken or worn. However, if the surface is chipped,
 4 there may be a greater exposure to lead.”²³

5 27. The Company is said to provide “values-led manufacturing”²⁴ and advertises its
 6 products as “your trusted companion[.]”²⁵

7 28. In 2019, the Stanley Adventure Quencher Travel Tumbler was selling poorly. PMI
 8 partnered with Buy Guide, an affiliate-marketing site based in Utah, to launch a marketing
 9 campaign. Buy Guide coached PMI to launch “an affiliate-marketing system through which fans
 10 could make money by driving sales.”²⁶ This resulted in a substantial sales increase, with the
 11 Stanley brand leaping from \$70 million in annual sales in [what year] to over \$750 million in 2023.

12 29. The enormous success of the Stanley Adventure Quencher Travel Tumbler led to
 13 the launch and subsequent popularity of other Stanley cups designed with the same insulation
 14 system and unique aesthetics.

15 30. It was not until January 2024, in response to a number of reports alleging the
 16 presence of lead in PMI products, that PMI was forced to admit that the manufacturing process for
 17 Stanley cups utilizes a sealing material that contains lead.²⁷

18 31. PMI admitted also that the base cap (a button cover on the bottom of the cup) of a
 19 product may “come[] off due to ordinary use and expose[] this seal”,²⁸ thus exposing the consumer
 20 to unwanted lead exposure.

21 ²³ California Department of Public Health, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch,
 22 <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CDCDPHP/DEODC/CLPPB/Pages/Q-A-Lead-in-Tableware.aspx#:~:text=If%20a%20dish%20contains%20lead,other%20dishes%20in%20the%20dishwasher> (last accessed Feb. 22, 2024).

23 ²⁴ Sustainability at Stanley, <https://www.stanley1913.com/pages/sustainability> (last accessed Feb. 22, 2024).

24 ²⁵ The Quencher H2O Flowstate Tumbler, <https://www.stanley1913.com/products/adventure-quencher-travel-tumbler-40-oz?variant=44559859613823> (last accessed Feb. 22, 2024).

25 ²⁶ Kyle Chayka, *How the Stanley Cup Went Viral*, The New Yorker (January 30, 2024).

26 ²⁷ Do Stanley products contain lead? Stanley 1913, <https://support.stanley1913.com/en/support/solutions/articles/69000850923-do-stanley-products-contain-lead> (last accessed Feb. 23, 2024).

28 ²⁸ *Id.*

1 32. PMI failed to disclose that, if damaged, the Stanley cup could expose consumers to
 2 lead. Thus, PMI knowingly misled consumers by failing to disclose that fact that a reasonable
 3 consumer would want to know before purchasing.

4 33. PMI advertises and markets its Stanley cups to consumers who enjoy active
 5 lifestyles, and such lifestyles increase the risk of damaging the product and exposing consumers
 6 to the lead used to manufacture that very product.

7 34. The presence of lead at any level would be material to a reasonable consumer due
 8 to the inherent and known risks of consumption and exposure.

9 35. PMI's explanation of lead use shows that PMI deliberately used lead in its cups'
 10 vacuum seals while knowing that Stanley cups could be damaged even through ordinary use.

11 36. PMI knowingly sells the Stanley cups to unsuspecting consumers. More
 12 specifically, it advertises and sells the Stanley cups to consumers with the assurance that they can
 13 be used during activity (*i.e.*, hiking and climbing) where a consumer could drop and/or damage
 14 the Stanley cups. Yet, PMI fails to warn of lead exposure.

15 37. PMI had a duty to disclose its use of lead before enticing millions of customers to buy its
 16 Stanley cups. Indeed, Stanley cup sales have "gone viral" and are being resold on secondary
 17 markets for multiples of their retail prices.

18 38. PMI contends that its use of lead to seal insulation is the "industry standard"²⁹ but
 19 provides no evidence to support that contention. In fact, several other water bottle companies –
 20 including Hydro Flask, Owala, and Klean Kanteen, do not use lead in their manufacturing.³⁰

21 39. Plaintiff and the Classes had a right to make an informed decision of whether to
 22 purchase a Stanley cup, but this right was taken away by Defendant's failure to warn purchasers
 23 of the presence of lead.

24 40. Based on Defendant's decision to wholly omit the presence of lead, and to instead
 25 advertise, package, and market its Stanley cups as made with BPA-free 90% recycled 18/8

26 ²⁹ Do Stanley products contain lead? Stanley 1913,
 27 [https://support.stanley1913.com/en/support/solutions/articles/69000850923-do-stanley-products-
 28 contain-lead-](https://support.stanley1913.com/en/support/solutions/articles/69000850923-do-stanley-products-contain-lead-) (last accessed Feb. 22, 2024).

³⁰ Daryl Austin, *Do Stanley cups contain lead or pose a risk of lead poisoning? Experts weigh in*, USA Today (Jan. 24, 2024).

1 stainless steel, it had a duty to ensure that these statements were true and not misleading. As such,
 2 Defendant knew or should have known the Stanley cups contained lead to which consumers could
 3 be exposed.

4 41. Defendant intentionally omitted the presence of lead in the Stanley cups to induce
 5 and mislead reasonable consumers to purchase the Stanley cups.

6 42. As a result of the material omissions, a reasonable consumer would have no reason
 7 to suspect the presence of lead in the Stanley cups without conducting his or her own scientific
 8 tests or reviewing third party scientific testing of these products.

9 43. PMI has advertised its product for “adventures” such as “scaling a mountain” or
 10 “climbing a tree.” Yet, PMI knew that these activities could increase the risk of the Stanley cups
 11 being damaged thereby exposing the seal and exposing consumers to the lead used in the seal. PMI
 12 markets its products for a healthy and active lifestyle. PMI’s advertisements often show the Stanley
 13 cups being used by individuals while exploring or exercising.

14 44. PMI markets and advertises its Stanley cups as durable. Its advertisements show
 15 consumers using the Stanley cups while exercising, hiking, skateboarding, biking, among other
 16 high impact activities. Yet PMI knew, or should have known, that these products were
 17 manufactured with lead, which can be exposed if the product is altered during one of these
 18 activities. PMI failed to notify consumers of this fact.

19 45. Furthermore, other water bottle manufacturers have produced products that are free
 20 of lead.

21 46. Hydro Flask, for example, created an alternative process over a decade ago for
 22 sealing bottles without the use of lead.³¹ Similarly, Owala bottle “are lead free. Always Have Been.
 23 Always Will Be.” Owala has used a lead-free process “from the very beginning[.]”³² Klean
 24 Kanteen also manufactures and sells products that are free of lead. It uses a different type of plug
 25

26 ³¹ Does Hydro Flask use lead for sealing its bottles and tumblers? Jan. 29, 2024,
 27 https://faq.hydroflask.com/en_us/does-hydro-flask-use-lead-for-sealing-bottles-and-tumblers-HkQrgJLq6 (last accessed Feb. 23, 2024).

28 ³² Do Owala bottles/tumblers contain lead?, <https://owalalife.com/pages/faq> (last accessed Feb. 23, 2024).

1 to create its vacuum insulated product.³³ Thus, there are many ways for manufacturers, like PMI,
 2 to significantly reduce or eliminate lead from their products.

3 47. PMI intended that the advertising, labeling, statements, and representations would
 4 be considered by purchasers of the Stanley cups, including Plaintiff and the proposed Class.

5 48. PMI directly marketed to Plaintiff and the proposed Classes through statements on
 6 its website, labeling, advertising, and packaging.

7 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

8 49. Plaintiff brings this action individually and on behalf of the following Class
 9 pursuant to Rules 23(a) and 23(b)(2) and (3) and 23(c)(4) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure:

10 11 All persons in the United States who, during the applicable limitations period to the
 present, purchased a Stanley cup for personal use, and not for resale (the “Class”).

12 50. Plaintiff also brings this action individually and on behalf of the following Subclass
 13 pursuant to Rules 23(a) and 23(b)(2) and (3) and 23(c)(4) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure:

14 15 All persons in New York who, from the applicable limitations period to the present,
 purchased a Stanley cup for personal use, and not for resale (the “New York Subclass”).

16 51. The Class and New York Subclass are collectively referred to as the “Classes.”

17 52. Excluded from the Classes are the Defendants, any parent companies, subsidiaries,
 18 and/or affiliates, officers, directors, legal representatives, employees, co-conspirators, all
 19 governmental entities, and any judge, justice, or judicial officer presiding over this matter.

20 53. This action is brought and may be properly maintained as a class action. There is
 21 a well-defined community of interests in this litigation and the members of the Classes are easily
 22 ascertainable. Purchasers of the Stanley cups can identify their purchases through receipts, store
 23 rewards programs, and their own testimony.

24
 25
 26
 27
 28 ³³ Do Klean Kanteens have BPA, lead, phthalates or heavy metals?,
<https://www.kleankanteen.com/pages/faq> (last accessed Feb. 23, 2024).

1 54. The members in the proposed Classes are so numerous that individual joinder of all
2 members is impracticable, and the disposition of the claims of the members of all Classes members
3 in a single action will provide substantial benefits to the parties and Court.

4 55. Questions of law and fact common to Plaintiff and the Classes include, but are not
5 limited to, the following:

- 6 a. whether PMI owed a duty of care to Plaintiff and the Classes;
- 7 b. whether PMI knew or should have known that the Stanley cups contained, or may
8 contain, lead;
- 9 c. whether PMI wrongfully represented and continues to represent that the Stanley
10 cups are dishwasher safe, durable, and suitable for household and outdoor use when
11 they contain lead;
- 12 d. whether PMI wrongfully failed to disclose that the Stanley cups contained lead;
- 13 e. whether PMI's representations in advertising, packaging, and/or labeling are false,
14 deceptive, and misleading;
- 15 f. whether those representations are likely to deceive a reasonable consumer;
- 16 g. whether a reasonable consumer would consider the presence of lead as a material
17 fact in purchasing a Stanley cup;
- 18 h. whether PMI had knowledge that those representations were false, deceptive, and
19 misleading;
- 20 i. whether PMI continues to disseminate those representations despite knowledge that
21 the representations are false, deceptive, and misleading;
- 22 j. whether PMI's representations and descriptions on the labeling of the Stanley cups
23 are likely to mislead, deceive, confuse, or confound consumers acting reasonably;

- k. whether PMI violated the laws of the State of New York;
- l. whether PMI violated the laws of the State of Washington;
- m. whether PMI engaged in unfair trade practices;
- n. whether PMI engaged in false advertising;
- o. whether PMI made negligent misrepresentations and/or omissions;
- p. whether PMI failed to warn adequately of the dangers of use of Stanley cups that have been damaged, among other things;
- q. whether Plaintiff and the members of the Classes are entitled to actual, statutory, and punitive damages; and
- r. whether Plaintiff and members of the Classes are entitled to declaratory and injunctive relief.

56. PMI engaged in a common course of conduct giving rise to the legal rights sought to be enforced by Plaintiff individually and on behalf of the other members of the Classes. Identical statutory violations and business practices and harms are involved. Individual questions, if any, are not prevalent in comparison to the numerous common questions that dominate this action.

57. Plaintiff's claims are typical of those of the members of the Classes in that they are based on the same underlying facts, events, and circumstances relating to PMI's conduct.

58. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Classes, have no interests incompatible with the interests of the Classes, and have retained counsel competent and experienced in class action, consumer protection, and false advertising litigation.

59. Class treatment is superior to other options for resolution of the controversy because the relief sought for each member of the Classes is small such that, absent representative litigation, it would be infeasible for members of the Classes to redress the wrongs done to them.

60. Questions of law and fact common to the Classes predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the Classes.

61. As a result of the foregoing, class treatment is appropriate.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

COUNT I

Fraud by Omission

(On Behalf of Plaintiff Barbu and the Classes)

62. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

63. PMI concealed from and failed to disclose to Plaintiff and the Classes that its Stanley cups contained lead that do not conform to the products' labels, packaging, advertising, and statements.

64. PMI was under a duty to disclose to Plaintiff and the Classes the true quality, characteristics, and suitability of the Stanley cups because: (1) PMI was in a superior position to know the true state of facts about its products; (2) PMI was in a superior position to know the actual characteristics and suitability of the Stanley cups for use by consumers; and (3) PMI knew that Plaintiff and the Classes could not reasonably have been expected to learn or discover that the Stanley cups were misrepresented in the packaging, labels, advertising, and website prior to purchasing the Stanley cups.

65. The facts concealed or not disclosed by PMI to Plaintiff and the Classes are material in that a reasonable consumer would have considered them important when deciding whether to purchase the Stanley cups.

66. Plaintiff and the Classes justifiably relied on PMI's omissions to their detriment. The detriment is evident from the true quality and characteristics of the Stanley cups, which is inferior when compared to how the Stanley cups are advertised and represented by PMI.

67. As a direct and proximate result of PMI's conduct, Plaintiff and the Classes have suffered actual damages in that they purchased Stanley cups that were worth less than the price they paid and that they would not have purchased at all had they known of the presence of lead that do not conform to the products' labels, packaging, advertising, and statements.

68. Plaintiff and the Classes seek actual damages, injunctive and declaratory relief, attorneys' fees, costs, and any other just and proper relief available under the laws.

COUNT II
Negligent Misrepresentation
(On Behalf of Plaintiff Barbu and the Classes)

69. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

70. PMI had a duty to Plaintiff and the Classes to exercise reasonable and ordinary care in the formulation, testing, manufacture, marketing, distribution, and sale of the Stanley cups.

71. PMI breached its duty to Plaintiff and the Classes by formulating, testing, manufacturing, advertising, marketing, distributing, and selling products to Plaintiff and the Classes that do not have the qualities, characteristics, and suitability for use as advertised by PMI and by failing to promptly remove the Stanley cups from the marketplace or to take other appropriate remedial action.

72. PMI knew or should have known that the qualities and characteristics of the Stanley cups were not as advertised or suitable for their intended use and were otherwise not as warranted and represented by PMI. Specifically, PMI knew or should have known that: (1) Stanley cups were not safe because they contained levels of lead; (2) the Stanley cups were not of superior quality because they contained lead that does not conform to the packaging; (3) the Stanley cups were adulterated, or at risk of being adulterated, by lead; and (4) the Stanley cups were otherwise not as warranted and represented by PMI.

73. As a direct and proximate result of PMI conduct, Plaintiff and the Classes have suffered actual damages in that they purchased Stanley cups that were worth less than the price they paid and that they would not have purchased at all had they known they contained lead or other materials that do not conform to the products' labels, packaging, advertising, and statements.

74. Plaintiff and the Classes seek actual damages, injunctive and declaratory relief, attorneys' fees, costs, and any other just and proper relief available.

COUNT III
Unjust Enrichment
(On Behalf of Plaintiff Barbu and the Classes)

75. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

76. Substantial benefits have been conferred on PMI by Plaintiff and the Classes through the purchase of the Stanley cups. PMI knowingly and willingly accepted and enjoyed these benefits.

77. PMI either knew or should have known that the payments rendered by Plaintiff and the Classes were given and received with the expectation that the Stanley cups would have the qualities, characteristics, and suitability for consumption represented and warranted by PMI. As such, it would be inequitable for PMI to retain the benefit of the payments under these circumstances.

78. PMI's acceptance and retention of these benefits under the circumstances alleged herein make it inequitable for PMI to retain the benefits without payment of the value to Plaintiff and the Classes.

79. Plaintiff and the Classes are entitled to recover from PMI all amounts wrongfully collected and improperly retained by PMI, plus interest thereon.

80. Plaintiff and the Classes seek actual damages, injunctive and declaratory relief, attorneys' fees, costs, and any other just and proper relief available under the laws.

COUNT IV

**Violations of New York's Deceptive Acts and Practices, N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 349
(On Behalf of Plaintiff Barbu and the New York Subclass)**

81. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

82. New York General Business Law (“GBL”) § 349 prohibits deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any business, trade, or commerce.

83. In its advertising and sale of goods throughout New York, Defendant conducts business and trade within the meaning of GBL § 349.

1 84. Defendant violated GBL § 349 by deceptively and misleadingly omitting that the
2 Stanley cups contained lead.

3 85. Defendant's omissions, concealment, and other deceptive conduct intentionally
4 marketed that the Stanley cups were of a particular standard, grade, or quality when they in fact
5 contained lead.

6 86. Defendant's omissions, concealment, and other deceptive conduct described herein
7 were directed at the consumer public at-large as they repeatedly occurred in the course of
8 Defendant's business and were capable of deceiving a substantial portion of the consuming public.

9 87. The facts concealed or not disclosed by Defendant were material facts in that
10 Plaintiff Barbu and the New York Subclass, and other reasonable consumers would have
11 considered them in deciding whether to purchase the Stanley cups. Had Plaintiff Barbu and
12 members of the New York Subclass known the Stanley cups did not have the quality and standards
13 as advertised by Defendant and contained lead, they would not have purchased the Stanley cups
14 or paid a premium price.

15 88. Defendant alone possessed the information that was material to Plaintiff Barbu and
16 the New York Subclass and failed to disclose such material information to consumers.

17 89. Defendant has engaged and continues to engage in deceptive conduct in violation
18 of GBL § 349.

19 90. Defendant's omissions and other deceptive conduct caused Plaintiff Barbu and the
20 New York Subclass to suffer injury in the form of actual damages when they purchased the Stanley
21 cups that were worth less than the price paid and that they would not have purchased at all had
22 they known the Stanley cups contained lead.

23 91. Defendant intended for Plaintiff Barbu and the New York Subclass to rely on its
24 omissions, concealment, and other deceptive conduct regarding the Stanley cups quality and
25 standards when purchasing the Stanley cups, unaware of the undisclosed material facts.

26 92. As a direct and proximate result of these violations, Plaintiff Barbu, the New York
27 Subclass, and other reasonable consumers have been harmed, and that harm will continue unless
28 Defendant is enjoined from further omitting the true quality and standards of the Stanley cups.

93. Pursuant to GBL § 349(h) and § 350-D, Plaintiff Barbu and the New York Subclass seek injunctive relief and declaratory relief, full refund, compensatory and punitive damages, actual damages or \$50 (whichever is greater), statutory and treble damages, and attorneys' fees.

COUNT V

**Violations of New York False Advertising Law, N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 350
(On Behalf of Plaintiff Barbu and the New York Subclass)**

94. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

95. New York General Business Law (“GBL”) § 350 prohibits false advertising in the conduct of any business, trade, or commerce.

96. Pursuant to GBL § 350, false advertising is defined as “advertising, including labeling, or a commodity... if such advertising is misleading in a material respect. ... [considering] representations made by statement, word [or] design [and] the extent to which the advertising fails to reveal facts material in the light of such representations.”

97. Defendant knew or should have known the Stanley cups did not have the quality and standards as described above because they contained undisclosed levels of lead.

98. Defendant purposely concealed and did not disclose material facts regarding the presence of lead to consumers, such as Plaintiff Barbu and the New York Subclass.

99. The facts concealed or not disclosed by Defendant were material facts in that Plaintiff Barbu, the New York Subclass, and other reasonable consumers would have considered them when deciding whether to purchase the Stanley cups. Had Plaintiff Barbu and members of the New York Subclass known the Stanley cups did not have the quality and standards as advertised by Defendant and contained lead, they would not have purchased the Stanley cups.

100. Defendant's conduct caused Plaintiff Barbu and the New York Subclass to suffer actual damages when they purchased the Stanley cups that were worth less than the price paid and that they would not have purchased at all had they known the Stanley cups contained lead.

101. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's violation of GBL § 350, Plaintiff Barbu and the New York Subclass have been injured, and that harm will continue unless Defendant is enjoined from further omitting the true quality and standards of its Stanley cups, including but

1 not limited to the presence of lead. Pursuant to GBL § 350-D, Plaintiff Barbu and the New York
 2 Subclass seek injunctive relief and declaratory relief, full refund, actual and punitive damages of
 3 \$500 (whichever is greater), statutory damages of three times the actual damages (up to \$10,000),
 4 and attorneys' fees.

5 **COUNT VI**

6 **Violation of the Washington Consumer Protection Act**
 7 **REV. CODE WASH. ANN. §§ 19.86.010, ET SEQ**
(On Behalf of Plaintiff Barbu and the Class)

8 102. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation
 9 contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

10 103. Defendant, Plaintiff, and the members of the Class all are persons within the
 11 meaning of the Washington Consumer Protection Act.

12 104. At all relevant times, Defendant engaged in trade and commerce within the meaning
 13 of the Washington Consumer Protection Act.

14 105. The Washington Act makes unlawful "unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the
 15 conduct of any trade or commerce." Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 19.86.020.

16 106. As alleged in this Complaint, Defendant's actions constitute unfair and deceptive
 17 acts and practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce in violation of the Washington Act.
 18 Defendant violated the Act by, among other things:

- 19 a. Representing that the Stanley cups have characteristics or benefits that they do
 20 not have;
- 21 b. Representing that the Stanley cups are of a particular standard, quality and grade
 22 when they are not; and
- 23 c. Failing to disclose material information concerning the Stanley cups known to
 24 Defendant at the time of advertisement or sale, with the intention of inducing
 25 Plaintiff and members of the Class to purchase the Stanley cups.

26 107. Defendant intended that its unfair and deceptive acts and practices would take
 27 advantage of Plaintiff and the members of the Class by persuading them to purchase Stanley cups
 28 that would not perform as intended and don't provide the advertised benefits.

1 108. The foregoing deceptive trade practices proximately caused Plaintiff and the
 2 members of the Class to suffer an ascertainable loss in the form of, among other things,
 3 overpayment of the Stanley cups that did not deliver the promised benefits.

4 109. Moreover, Defendant's unfair and deceptive acts and practices are injurious to the
 5 public interest because the acts and practices have the capacity to injure other persons, had the
 6 capacity to injure other persons during the relevant period herein, and did injure other persons
 7 during that period.

8 110. Plaintiff seeks to recover for the members of the Class the overcharges they
 9 incurred as a result of Defendant's deceptive practices, as well as treble damages and any other
 10 legal or equitable relief that the Court deems just and appropriate.

11 **COUNT VII**
 12 **Manufacturing Defect**
 13 **Washington Product Liability Act**
 14 **(On Behalf of Plaintiff Barbu and the Class)**

15 111. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation
 16 contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

17 112. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant designed, manufactured, tested, marketed,
 18 sold, and distributed the Stanley cups used by Plaintiff.

19 113. At all relevant times, the Stanley cups used by Plaintiff were expected to and did reach
 20 Plaintiff without a substantial change in their anticipated or expected condition as manufactured,
 21 handled, distributed, and sold by Defendant.

22 114. At all relevant times, the Stanley cups used by Plaintiff were shipped and stored in
 23 compliance with Defendant's express written instructions.

24 115. At all relevant times, the Stanley cups used by Plaintiff were used in a manner that was
 25 foreseeable and intended by Defendant.

26 116. The Stanley cups used by Plaintiff were not reasonably safe for their intended use and
 27 were defective with respect to their manufacture, as described herein, in that the design and
 28 manufacture posed an unreasonable risk of harm to Plaintiff.

1 117. Defendant's Stanley cups are inherently dangerous and defective, unfit, and unsafe for
2 their intended and reasonably foreseeable uses, and accordingly do not meet or perform to the
3 expectations of ordinary consumers.

4 118. The Stanley cups create risks to the health and safety of consumers that far outweigh
5 the cost to Defendant to utilize a lead-free seal.

6 119. Defendant's manufacturing defect includes but is not limited to failure to utilize a
7 lead-free plug to create its vacuum-insulated vessels.

8 120. Accordingly, the Stanley cups deviated in a material way from the performance
9 standards of the Defendant and/or deviated in some material way from otherwise identical units of
10 the same product line.

11 121. The manufacturing defects in Defendant's Stanley cups were substantial factors in
12 causing Plaintiff's injuries.

13 122. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct described herein, Plaintiff
14 has been injured because she purchased a defective product she otherwise would not have
15 purchased, did not receive the benefit of the bargain, and/or suffered out-of-pocket loss.

16 123. Accordingly, Plaintiff would not have: (a) been subjected to the risk of exposure to
17 lead; and (b) sustained a significantly increased risk of developing various types of serious ailments.

18 124. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's actions and omissions, Plaintiff has a
19 significantly increased risk of developing serious ailments and has suffered economic losses.

20 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

21 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, prays
22 for judgment against PMI as to each and every count, including:

23 A. An order declaring this action to be a proper class action, appointing Plaintiff and
24 her counsel to represent the Classes, and requiring PMI to bear the costs of class notice;

25 B. An order enjoining PMI from selling the Stanley cups until the levels lead are
26 removed or full disclosure of the presence of such appears on all labels, packaging, and advertising;

27 C. An order enjoining PMI from selling the Stanley cups in any manner suggesting or
28 implying that they are safe for use;

D. An order requiring PMI to engage in a corrective advertising campaign and engage in further necessary affirmative injunctive relief, such as recalling existing products;

E. An order awarding declaratory relief, and any further retrospective or prospective injunctive relief permitted by law or equity, including enjoining PMI from continuing the unlawful practices alleged herein, and injunctive relief to remedy PMI's past conduct;

F. An order requiring PMI to pay restitution to restore all funds acquired by means of any act or practice declared by this Court to be an unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice, untrue or misleading advertising, or a violation of law, plus pre- and post-judgment interest thereon;

G. An order requiring PMI to disgorge or return all monies, revenues, and profits obtained by means of any wrongful or unlawful act or practice;

H. An order requiring PMI to pay all actual and statutory damages permitted under the counts alleged herein;

I. An order requiring PMI to pay punitive damages on any count so allowable;

J. An order awarding attorney's fees and costs, including the costs of pre-suit investigation, to Plaintiff and the Classes; and

K. An order providing for all other such equitable relief as may be just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: February 24, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Lori G. Feldman

Lori G. Feldman (WSBA #29096)
GEORGE FELDMAN MCDONALD
PLLC
102 Half Moon Bay Drive
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520
Tel: (917) 983-9320
Fax: (888) 421-4173
lfeldman@4-justice.com

David J. George
**GEORGE FELDMAN MCDONALD
PLLC**
9397 Lake Worth Road, Suite 302
Lake Worth, FL 33467
Tel: (561) 232-6002
Fax: (888) 421-4173
dgeorge@4-justice.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff